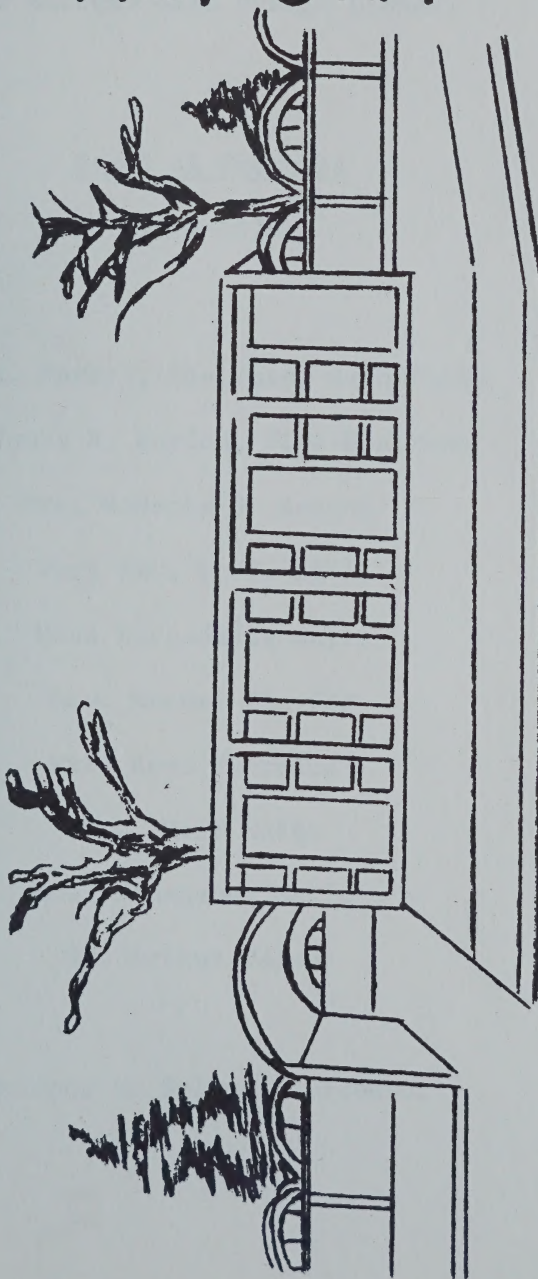


NEW BEDFORD

FREE PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

# ANNUAL REPORT



1977-1978



NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees

1977-1978

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The Deep Freeze of the winter of 1978, with the exceptional snowfall in February kept people from using their library. The year's circulation shows a drop of 16.5 thousand, (3.4%).

Many persons think that all library staff do is to issue books and reshelve them. Perhaps we can offer some statistics to show the amount of record-keeping and behind-the-scenes staff activities involved in serving the public.

Thirteen thousand seven hundred overdue notices were sent and eleven thousand telephone calls made to urge people to bring their books back; this takes staff time and energy, paper supplies, and postage. Nearly ten thousand people either joined the library (5,957), or renewed their membership (3,700). Fifteen hundred replacement cards were issued. A little over a third of this activity was geared to Children's Services.

Residents of other towns and cities joined our Library - 814 cards were issued. Acushnet residents 339, Dartmouth 134, Fairhaven 71, Freetown 56, Rochester 38,

Fall River 33, Lakeville and Mattapoisett 19 and 20, Westport 17 and Marion 10. Other area residents represented were Bridgewater, Brockton, Cataumet, Framingham, Little Compton, Rhode Island, Rehoboth, Taunton and even Worcester, Massachusetts!

The Sign Machine also was busy: Four hundred and forty-eight signs were made - 164 for Central, 137 for the Branches, 58 for other related activities such as Library Week, the Air Fair, and our Library 13 (Video) Project. Requests from other libraries: Dartmouth 50, Wareham 30, Westport 10. All outside agencies paid for the supplies used.

Besides this, of course, the Library is the "Information Place" which means the staff gives out factual information on demand. 33,832 questions were answered - about 10.5 every day, including legal holidays, days closed because of bad weather, etc. Each question, if not immediately answered from the material in the Reference Room, must be searched through our bibliographic indexes and/or in the books housed in our storage area (the "stacks"). In

addition the Interloan Department found 5,700 items in other libraries for our users and had them sent either here or to another nearby library for pickup.

Elsewhere in the Library the Whaling/ Genealogical division of the Reference Department took a great step forward thanks to a crew of hardworking people paid from CETA funds. They indexed 27,000 documents and added 16,000 names to our Seamen's Card File. The Rooms did not receive as much use last winter due to winter conditions which discouraged attendance during this potentially peak period. The Genealogy Room acquired extensive French Canadian material and also copies of the passenger lists of vessels berthing in New Bedford from 1826 to 1899.

The Children's Department was active with increased class visits, developing puppet theatres and revitalizing the non-fiction collections. Thirty-eight hundred children visited the library from nearby schools and 6,850 attended our film showings.



### THE BRANCHES

The Wilks Branch continues as our busiest, serving as it does all New Bedford north of Coggeshall Street, and much of Acushnet and Lakeville.

The Howland-Green Branch continued to encourage public use by working for expanded school-library cooperation, taking pains to educate people to the services available, attempting to introduce high school and college students to the resources located there. The staff also worked hard to introduce the Spanish material to those who could use it. A continuing effort to upgrade the image of the branch was also made by controlling the high noise level within the building, having the broken windows repaired and landscaping the grounds. The building was scraped and repainted.

The Casa da Saudade settled into its new quarters and continued to serve the Portuguese residents of the City, translating letters and documents, teaching both English and Portuguese, and serving the day-to-day clientele of the Branch.



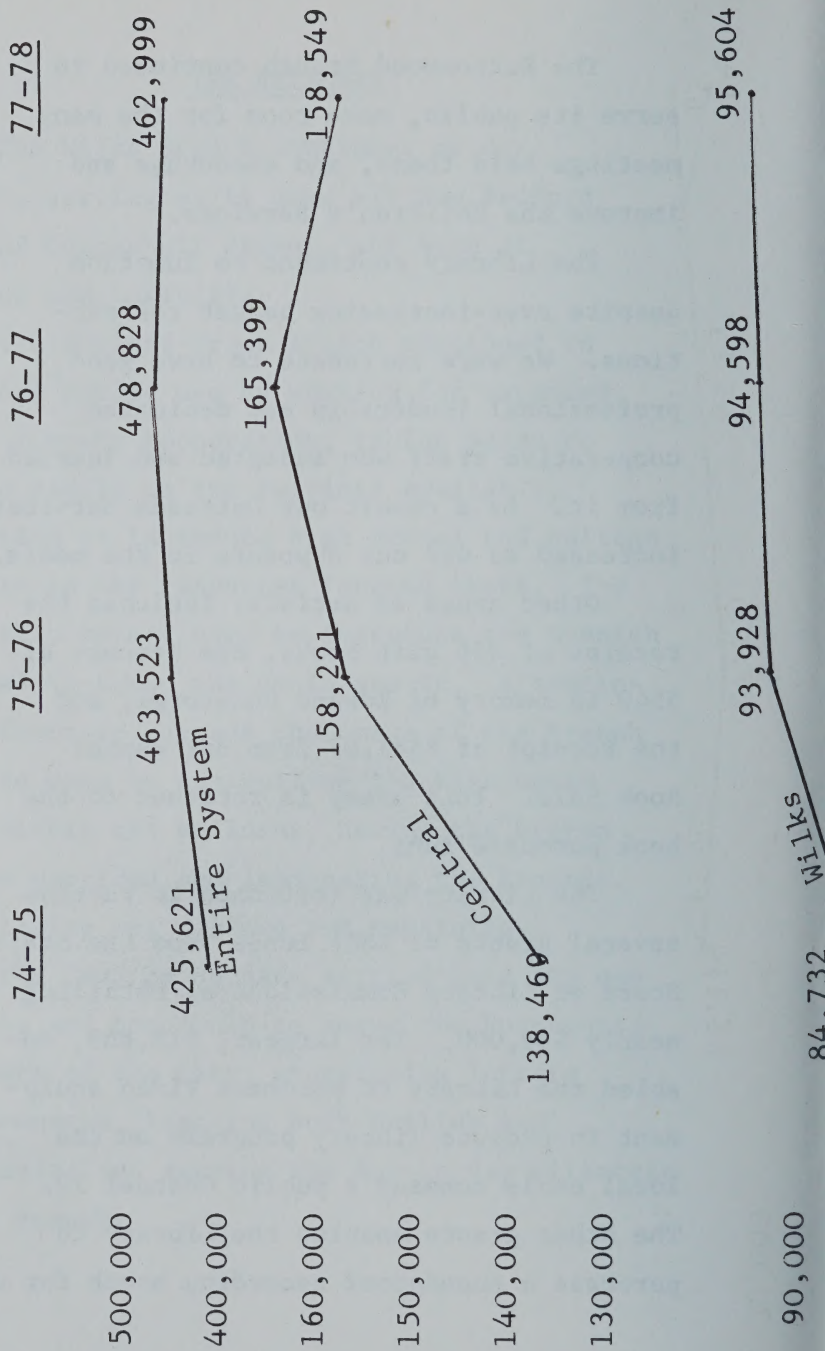
The Buttonwood Branch continued to serve its public, make room for the many meetings held there, and encourage and improve the Children's Services.

The Library continued to function despite ever-increasing budget restrictions. We were fortunate to have good professional leadership and dedicated, cooperative staff who accepted and learned from it. As a result our Outreach Services increased as did our exposure in the media.

Other areas of activity included the receipt of 286 gift books, the bequest of \$540 in memory of Edward Ohnesorge, and the receipt of \$461.67 from our annual Book Sale. This money is returned to the book purchase fund.

The Library was fortunate to receive several grants of LSCA funds from the State Board of Library Commissioners, totalling nearly \$30,000. The largest, \$18,669, enabled the Library to purchase Video equipment to produce library programs on the local cable company's public Channel 13. The other grants enabled the Library to purchase a soundproof recording booth for use

# CIRCULATION COMPARISON



70,000

60,000

50,000

40,000

66,114 ~~Buttonwood~~ 67,896 65,144 64,837  
59,806 61,928

55,331

~~Howland-Green~~

48,464 ~~Howland-Green~~ 44,394 Saudade 46,918 43,775  
44,622 Casa da 46,963 38,306  
43,219 Bookmobile 43,753

-7-

REFERENCE COMPARISON (Center Only)

20,000

10,000

14,540 15,423 16,180 16,229

by volunteers who make audio tapes for the blind and those with vision problems (\$6,000). We also purchased suitable recorders and cassette duplicators. The Teletypewriter grant (\$1,500) paid for a teletypewriter which is installed on one of the Library telephone lines. It prints out a verbal message so deaf persons can obtain information via the phone. The Special Project grant (\$3,800) covered the cost of a copy of the Catalog of the Boston Public Library. This set of books is of great use to us in serving the needs of the public. Also covered by the grant is the cost of a microfilm cabinet so we can keep our numerous reels of microfilm (New York Times, London Times, New Bedford Standard Times) in the proper order for easy use.

In addition, the gratitude of the Trustees goes to the Friends of the New Bedford Public Library for their generous assistance with events and projects in the Howland-Green Branch and the Children's Department (\$570), Reading is Fundamental (\$100) and the purchase of art reproductions for loan (\$366). The Friends also held



cultural programs such as Books Sandwiched In during the year.

With the arrival of "Proposition 13" fever there looms even more fiscal restrictions for the Library. Understaffed and underfunded as the Library is, greater restrictions will mean less services; less staff, fewer hours open, or both. No amount of fiscal restraint on the part of the administration can compensate for constantly increasing prices of supplies, power, fuel, salaries, books, records and other media. The use of CETA staff and volunteers notwithstanding, the Trustees will be faced with disagreeable and difficult decisions in the years ahead as the financial support fails to keep up with the cost of living.

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Where it Came From

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City of New Bedford	(71.9%)	\$553,088.89
Commonwealth of Mass.	(4.9%)	37,629.38
Mass. Eastern Region	(5.3%)	41,112.10

Bequest Funds:

Income               \$88,757.02

Bal. on Hand    18,933.16   (14.0%)    107,690.18

Federal Grants:

Channel 13       18,669.00

Volunteer

  Recd. Grant     6,000.00

TTY               1,500.00

LSCA Title I     3,800.00   (3.9%)    29,969.00

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\$769,489.55

Assessed Valuation:               \$262,997,805.00

City Support:                       2.1 mils  
                                      (2.10/thousand)

PUBLIC LIBRARY

, 1977 - June 30, 1978

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Where it Went

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Salaries	(72.3%)	\$556,135.50
Library Materials	(14.3%)	110,535.85
Operation:		
Processing	4,870.44	
Heat & Power	40,445.17	
Maint. & Rpr.	10,120.31	
Office & Adm.	5,584.11	
Insurance	1,020.00	
Transportation	913.39	
Other	<u>3,780.23</u>	(8.7%) 66,733.65
Equipment	(2.3%)	17,591.62
Balance on Hand:		
Funds	17,815.04	
Grants	<u>677.89</u>	(2.4%) <u>18,492.93</u>
		<u>\$769,489.55</u>

NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual Report Fiscal Year 1977-78

PRIVATE FUNDS

<u>Fund</u>	<u>On Hand</u> <u>July 1977</u>
F. S. Allen	\$ 58.79
James B. Congdon	13.56
George O. Crocker	288.33
Oliver Crocker	.93
George Howland	20.94
Sylvia A. Howland	1.50
Susan Jones	46.14
Kempton	14,192.06
Elizabeth Mackie	5.85
C. Morgan	64.72
G. Ohnesorge	-
C. Tripp	996.36
Florence Waite	224.76
Patty Wilcox	1,039.11
Wilks	1,969.23
C. Wood	10.88
	<hr/>
	\$18,933.16



<u>Received</u> <u>6/30/77-7/1/78</u>	<u>Disbursed</u> <u>7/1/77-6/30/78</u>	<u>On Hand</u> <u>6/30/78</u>
\$ 74.40	\$ 55.90	\$ 77.29
29.40	-	42.96
592.75	836.33	44.75
58.76	-	59.69
551.22	125.00	447.16
10,127.09	7,787.61	2,340.98
854.06	672.61	227.59
31,309.87	36,639.77	8,862.16
58.76	-	64.61
58.76	30.10	93.38
540.00	-	540.00
1,518.49	1,903.38	611.47
379.92	426.65	178.03
344.91	1,018.27	365.75
42,121.61	40,379.52	3,711.32
137.02	-	147.90
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\$88,757.02	\$89,875.14	\$17,815.04

